

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

MEETING
DATE: 2/3/03

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AGENDA SECTION: LETTERS AND PETITIONS	ORIGINATING DEPT: Administration	ITEM NO. C-1
ITEM DESCRIPTION: The Southeast Minnesota Alliance of Peace Makers Request to be Heard		PREPARED BY: S. Kvenvold

The Southeast Minnesota Alliance of Peace Makers request to be heard. They will be presenting an anti-war resolution which they will request the City Council to adopt.

COUNCIL ACTION: Motion by: _____ Second by: _____ to: _____

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the people of Rochester are peace-loving and welcome a population of citizens from many countries and faith persuasions who wish to live peacefully with one another; and,

WHEREAS, the issues between Iraq and the world community have not proven to be irresolvable by traditional diplomatic efforts; and,

WHEREAS, while Saddam Hussein is a tyrant who should be removed from power, both for the good of the Iraqi people and for the security of Iraq's neighboring countries, it is not at all clear that a unilateral U.S. military action would result in the installation of a free and democratic Iraqi government; and,

WHEREAS, U.S. military actions would risk the deaths of thousands of Iraqi civilians without guaranteeing the safety and security of U.S. citizens; and,

WHEREAS, a pre-emptive and unilateral U.S. military attack would violate international law and our commitments under the U.N. Charter and further isolate the U.S. from the rest of the world; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Budget Office estimates a military action against Iraq will cost our nation between \$9 and \$13 billion a month, likely resulting in further cuts in federally funded projects and programs that benefit our city and its residents; and,

WHEREAS, a U.S.-led war in Iraq would compromise our current action in Afghanistan and require years of nation-building activities in Iraq; and,

WHEREAS, the Bush administration has failed to articulate a clear strategic objective or outcome of a military attack against Iraq, and such an attack fails to enjoy the support of many of our important allies; and,

WHEREAS, we give our unconditional support to U.S. military personnel serving at home and abroad in their tireless battle against global terrorism, and should our military forces be sent to Iraq, we give our unyielding support to our young men and women serving in our nation's military, even if we oppose the policy that sent them there.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the Common Council of the City of Rochester, Minnesota, hereby declare our opposition to a unilateral pre-emptive U.S. military attack on Iraq unless it is demonstrated to the United Nations that Iraq poses a real and imminent threat to the security and safety of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support a return of U.N. weapons inspectors to Iraq, enhanced by sufficient police support to guarantee unfettered access to all targeted sites.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the U.S. to work through the U.N. Security Council and reaffirm our nation's commitment to the rule of law in all international relationships.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minnesota congressional delegation and the President of the United States.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA, THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2003.

PRESIDENT OF SAID COMMON COUNCIL

ATTEST: _____
CITY CLERK

APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2003.

MAYOR OF SAID CITY

(Seal of the City of
Rochester, Minnesota)

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